

Democracy Arts Challenge 2021

CONTEST RULES

I. Contest Sponsors

The ***Democracy Arts Challenge*** is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa. Its objective is to encourage Ethiopian youth to explore their personal viewpoints on the interconnectedness of citizen participation, their future and democracy. Art challenge submissions can either be a short video or a short poem addressing one of these themes:

- “What I want Ethiopia to be”
- "My contributions to elections”
- "What democracy means to me"

The Democracy Arts Challenge is open to Ethiopians aged 18-25.

The Challenge will run from April 3 to May 4, 2021.

II. Platforms

Short Video Challenge

The video portion of the challenge will be conducted on the YouTube video sharing platform; however YouTube is not a partner or sponsor of the contest. Contestants are reminded that by participating in the contest and uploading content to YouTube, they are bound by YouTube’s Terms of Service and any agreements with YouTube or Google contained therein.

Short Poem Challenge

Poem entries will be submitted via online form - <https://tinyurl.com/EthioDemocracyArts>

III. How to Enter

Participants will be required to submit their personal information, proof of age and entries on online form - <https://tinyurl.com/EthioDemocracyArts>

Contestants must decide which art challenge category they will compete in. They can only compete in one category and submit one entry. Once an entry is submitted, it is considered final and may not be modified, edited, or replaced. Participation in this contest is automatically deemed as acceptance of these Official Contest Rules.

Entries must be submitted online. **Submissions in person to the Embassy will not be accepted.**

For inquiries, you may contact AddisVideoChallenge@state.gov

Short Video Challenge

Contestants must produce an original short video addressing one of provided themes. Upload the video on YouTube captioning the video with your own title and the hashtag #EthioDemocracyArts. The video submission must be uploaded in the standard YouTube format of 16:9 aspect ratio. Videos must be filmed in widescreen, no vertical video will be accepted.

After uploading the hashtagged video on YouTube, complete the registration form and provide the link of your video submission to <https://tinyurl.com/EthioDemocracyArts>

A submission must be an original video, taken by the contestant. The submitted video must not be longer than three minutes; shorter formats are preferred. Contestants cannot submit more than one video. Competing in the video challenge category disqualifies the contestant from competing in the poem challenge and vice-versa.

Short Poem Challenge

Contestants must compose a poem addressing one of provided themes and submit their official entry in PDF format on <https://tinyurl.com/EthioDemocracyArts>. Poems must be original, unpublished and should not exceed 20 lines in length, excluding poem title and poet information. Each entry must have a poem title featured at the top with the name of the poet, contact address, mobile number and email address at the bottom.

IV. Content Requirements

- a. Submissions must not discriminate against any religious values, ethnicity, gender, disability or cultural values.
- b. The entries must be in English and address one of the three provided themes.
- c. Submissions must not contain obscenity, explicit sexual material, nudity, profanity, graphic violence, calls or incitement to violence, commercial solicitation or commercial promotion. Submissions also must not contain content or images that could be considered abusive, inflammatory, denigrating, or disrespectful to any of the Contest Sponsors, or to groups, individuals or institutions. Submissions must adhere both in appearance and in fact to the norms of civil discourse. In other words, the content of all submissions must be suitable for a global, public audience.
- d. Submissions must be original content created by the Contestant and must not contain any elements that are protected by someone else's copyright or otherwise subject to third party intellectual property or proprietary rights, including privacy and publicity rights (except as expressly permitted below). Contest Sponsors recognize no allowance for "fair use" of copyrighted material, nor do Contest Sponsors recognize allowance of use of licensed materials created or owned by a third party.
- e. The Contest Sponsors reserve the right to disqualify, at their sole and absolute discretion, any submission that does not adhere to these criteria and to the intent and substance of these Official Contest Rules.

- f. For those competing in the video challenge – by submitting a video to the contest, the Contestant affirms that he or she has obtained written consent from all individuals whose image or likeness appears in the video (or from the individuals' parent/legal guardian if any such individuals are considered a minor in their country of residence), and that he or she has obtained the necessary rights, licenses, consents, and permissions to use all material such as music, images, text and other content in the submission. The Contestant further affirms that he or she is prepared to provide reliable documentation of any and all such consents, licenses, etc., upon request. Failure to obtain such rights, license consents, and permissions may result in the disqualification of the Photo Submission at the Contest Sponsors' sole and absolute discretion.
- g. Technical Format Requirements
 - i. Videos must be no more than 3 minutes long. The video submission must be uploaded in the standard YouTube format of 16:9 aspect ratio. Videos must be filmed in widescreen, no vertical video will be accepted.
 - ii. Poems must be no more than 20 lines in length and submitted via email in PDF format.
- h. In the event of any question or difference of view regarding compliance with, interpretation, or application of these Content requirements or other provisions of these Official Contest Rules, the Contest Sponsors reserve the exclusive right to resolve such questions or differences of view in their sole discretion.

V. Eligibility

- a. Contestants must be at least 18 years old on the date of commencement of the contest and not older than 25 years old on the date of entry into the contest. Contestants must be residents Ethiopia and may not be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- b. The contest commences on April 3, 2021. Entries may be submitted until 11:59 pm local Ethiopia time on May 3, 2021. Voting and announcement of winner will take place by end of May 2021.
- c. The individual submitting the entry will be considered the Contestant and will be the only individual eligible to compete for the prize. Organizations are not eligible to compete for the prize, either as an entity, or through representation by an individual. In order to be eligible for the prize, you must provide complete and accurate information.
- d. The following individuals are not eligible to participate in the contest: Employees, directors, and officers of: the Contest Sponsor, the Platform(s), the U.S. Government, or contractors of the U.S. Government; or distribution agencies, web design agencies, advertising agencies, fulfillment agencies, as well as judging and Contest agencies involved in the administration, development, fulfillment, and execution of this Contest, and the immediate family members (defined as spouse, recognized partner, parent, child, sibling, and spouse or "step" of each) and those living in the same households of each such individual.
- e. Once an entry submission has been accepted, the contestants name may be publicly identified at the sole discretion of the Contest Sponsor.

VI. Selection of Winners

- a. **Judging Criteria.** All entries will be pre-screened by the Contest Sponsor to ensure compliance with these Official Contest Rules. Any entry out of compliance will not be posted. The Contest Sponsor reserves the right in their sole and absolute discretion to verify in the final analysis whether a potential finalist or potential winning entry submission has fully complied with these Official Contest Rules before posting to the contest site, awarding prize, recognizing as winner, etc.

A panel of U.S. Embassy personnel will do the preliminary rating of all entries and will select the top 10 submissions for each category for further consideration by a panel of judges. An esteemed final jury will select the top 3 finalists for each category.

Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria

40% Overall Impact (How well does the entry address the selected theme)

40% Creativity (Contains original concepts, ideas and storytelling style)

15% Production Values (For video entries: image quality, editing and sound; for poems: clarity of words and presentation)

05% Technical (Does the video or poem follow the entry length requirement)

- b. **Winners.** The winners will be required to sign and return to the Contest Sponsors an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release, provide a short bio and a brief statement about the submission; otherwise they will be ineligible to compete for any prize. The inability of Contest Sponsors to contact potential winners may result in disqualification and/or selection of an alternate winner from among all remaining eligible submissions.

The winners may choose to use an alias instead of their real name and may request other identifying information be kept private.

The winners will be announced on all U.S. Embassy social media platforms

VII. Prize

- a. The top three winners of each category will receive digital devices that will support their learning and education.
- b. Each winner must provide a valid physical mailing address where a prize, if any, is to be shipped or delivered. Contest Sponsors are not responsible for any problems related to the shipping of any prize, including, but not limited to, theft, delay, damage, or destruction/accidental loss by the shipping carrier. If a winner does not provide a valid physical mailing address, then the Contest Sponsors reserve the right to select an alternative winner.
- c. Any unused portion of the prize is not transferable, convertible, or exchangeable and cannot be taken as cash. All taxes on or in connection with any prize, and the reporting consequences thereof, are the sole and exclusive responsibility of the winner.

- d. Contest Sponsors are not liable in the event that any portion of the Contest is cancelled due to weather, fire, strike, acts of war or terrorism, or any other condition beyond their control.

VIII. Liability and Rights

- a. The Contest Sponsor does not endorse any submissions or messages expressed therein, and the Contest Sponsor expressly disclaims any and all liability in connection with the submitted entries including disputes between collaborators related to a submission.
- b. The contest and its sponsor do not permit copyright infringing activities or infringement of any other intellectual property rights and the Contest Sponsor reserves the right to remove and disqualify any submission they deem to be in violation of another party's copyright or other intellectual property rights.
- c. Contestants retain sole ownership of their original work. The submission remains the intellectual property of the contestant, and the Contest Sponsor and U.S. Government make no claim of copyright as to the work of any individual who enters the contest. The Contestant specifically agrees to give the Contest Sponsor permission to use all content submitted for purposes of judging the contest. The winners will be required to grant the Contest Sponsor, with proper attribution through whatever means they deem appropriate, a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, sub-licensable and transferable license to use, reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works of, and/or display the submission, in any media formats and through any media channels in perpetuity in connection with the activities and operations of the contest.
- d. The contestant assumes sole responsibility for the contest submission and the material contained in it, and for any consequences of submitting or posting it.
- e. The Contest Sponsor reserves the right at any time, to verify the validity of entries and of contestants and to disqualify any contestant or entry deemed not in compliance with these Official Contest Rules. The Contest Sponsor also reserves the right to request further documentation, at their sole and absolute discretion, to verify eligibility and compliance with these Official Contest Rules.
- f. If a prize or any portion thereof is unavailable, the Contest Sponsor, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to substitute the prize with another prize of equal or greater value and/or specification.
- g. The Contest Sponsor reserves the right, at any time and in their sole discretion, to disqualify and/or deem ineligible any individual who they reasonably believe (i) has violated the Official Contest Rules; (ii) has violated the terms of use of the platform, or (iii) is acting in a bad faith, or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other person.
- h. The Contest Sponsor reserves the right to modify, suspend, terminate or cancel the contest at their discretion for any reason.
- i. Contestant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Contest Sponsor, their parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies, officers, directors, employees, interns, and agents, from and against any and all claims, damages, obligations, losses, liabilities, costs or debts, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees) arising from (i) violation of these Official Contest Rules; (ii) violation of any third party right, including without limitation any copyright, trademark, intellectual property, privacy, publicity, or other proprietary right in connection with the contest; or (iii) any claim that a contest submission

- caused any harm, including financial, to any third party. These indemnification and hold harmless obligations will survive indefinitely beyond the conclusion of the contest.
- j. The conduct, judging, and awarding of prizes will be carried out in full compliance with applicable U.S. law and host country law. In the event of a conflict between U.S. law and host country law, U.S. law shall apply.
 - k. The Contest Sponsor and the U.S. Government will take reasonable measures to protect privacy data, personally identifiable information, and other sensitive data of contestants. Contact information provided by contestants may be stored by the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa and may be used to contact contestants for other purposes in the future. This information may be shared with or be made available to third parties to the extent permitted by law.
 - l. The Contest Sponsor assumes no liability or responsibility for any loss or harm resulting from any user's participation in or attempt to participate in the contest or ability or inability to upload, download, or otherwise access any information in connection with participating in the contest. The Contest Sponsor assumes no responsibility or liability for technical problems, or technical malfunctions arising in connection with the operation of the contest, including: hardware or software errors; faulty computer, telephone, cable, satellite, network, electronic, wireless or Internet connectivity, or other online communication problems; errors or limitations of any Internet service providers, servers, hosts or providers; garbled, jumbled or faulty data transmissions; failure of any email transmissions to be sent or received; lost, late, delayed or intercepted email transmissions; inaccessibility of the contest site in whole or in part for any reason; traffic congestion on the Internet or the contest site; unauthorized human or non-human intervention in the operation of the contest, including without limitation, unauthorized tampering, hacking, theft, virus, bugs, worms; or destruction of any aspect of the contest, or loss, miscount, misdirection, inaccessibility or unavailability of an email account used in connection with the contest.
 - m. Use of contest site (YouTube) is at user's own risk. The Contest Sponsor is not responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or losses of any kind which may be sustained to computer equipment resulting from participation in the contest, use of the contest site or the downloading of information from the contest site (YouTube). By participating in the contest, the contestant releases the Contest Sponsor from any and all claims arising from or relating to such contestant's participation in the contest, whether directly or indirectly.